### **Selected BLS Economic Indicators**

# Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton



#### Selected Indicators

This fact sheet presents recent **employment and unemployment**, **price**, **and earnings data** for Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), and the United States. The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** measures price changes, or inflation, for particular commodities and services at the retail level. The **Producer Price Index (PPI)** measures price changes, or inflation, for particular commodities and services at the wholesale level and is widely used by business firms as an escalator in long-term contracts. The **Employment Cost Index (ECI)** measures price changes, or inflation, of labor costs which includes wages and salaries and employer costs for employee benefits. The earnings data are from the **Occupational Employment Statistics (OES)**.

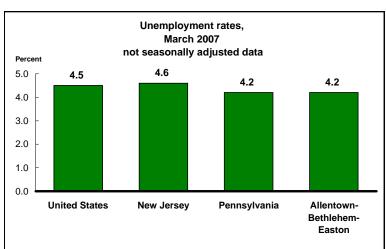
Consumer Price Index	April	April	Percent
(1982-84) = 100	2006	2007	change
All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)			
U.S. City Average	201.5	206.686	2.6
Northeast	214.7	219.501	2.2
Northeast (size class B/C)*	127.3	129.563	1.8
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)			
U.S. City Average	197.2	202.130	2.5
Northeast	211.0	215.802	2.3
Northeast (size class B/C)*	127.6	129.856	1.8
Producer Price Index, U.S.	April	April	Percent
(1982 = 100)	2006	2007	change
Finished goods	160.7	165.8	3.2
All commodities	164.3	171.2	4.2
Industrial commodities	168.8	173.7	2.9

<sup>\*</sup>Northeastern cities with populations from 50,000 to 1,500,000 (December 1996=100) Most recent PPI numbers are preliminary.

## Unemployment levels, age 16 years and over (not seasonally adjusted, in thousands)

Area	March 2006	March 2007	Net change	Percent change
United States	7,255.0	6,913.0	-342.0	-4.7
New Jersey	220.2	206.3	-13.9	-6.3
Pennsylvania	317.1	264.1	-53.0	-16.7
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton	20.7	17.6	-3.1	-15.0

Most recent numbers are preliminary.

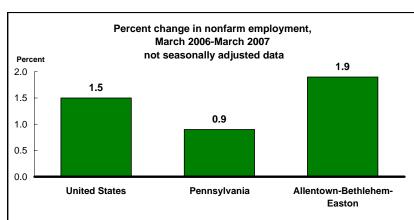


Employment Cost Index	1st Qtr.	1st Qtr.	Percent
(December 2005) = 100	2006	2007	change
Total Compensation-Private Industry Workers			
United States	100.8	104.0	3.2
Northeast	100.9	104.0	3.1
Middle Atlantic	100.9	104.2	3.3
Occupational Wages	Mean Hourly Earnings		
Selected Occupations	May 2005		
Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton			
All Occupations	\$17.46		
Education, training, and library	20.63		
Office and administrative support	13.48		
Construction and extraction	19.39		
Sales and related	14.99		
Healthcare practitioner and technical	29.55		
Food preparation and serving related	8.39		
Production	15.11		
Installation, maintenance, and repair	17.55		
Transportation and material moving	13.49		

### Nonfarm payroll employment

(not seasonally adjusted, in thousands) Net March Percent March Area 2006 2007 change change **United States** 134,868.0 136,835.0 1.967.0 1.5 New Jersey 4,029.8 4,047.2 17.4 0.4 Pennsylvania 5,697.8 5,751.3 53.5 0.9 Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton 339.3 345.6 6.3 1.9

Most recent numbers are preliminary.



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U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics The Curtis Center - Suite 610E 170 South Independence Mall West Philadelphia, PA 19106 The Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) includes Carbon, Lehigh, and Northampton counties in Pennsylvania, and Warren County in New Jersey.